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## NJMC Announces Dates for Pontoon Boat and Canoe Tours

LYNDHURST, N.J. – Continuing a spring and summer tradition that is growing in popularity every year, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is announcing this year's schedule for pontoon boat cruises and guided canoe tours along the Hackensack River. A view from the water offers the most impressive way to view the marshes, meadows, mud flats, terrapin turtles, fiddler crabs, and more than 260 species of birds found in the Meadowlands, all within the backdrop of the New York City skyline.

### Pontoon Boat Cruises

Evening pontoon boat cruises offer a relaxing escape at the end of the workday and an informative introduction to the history and nature of the Meadowlands. Launching from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt, these two-hour tours are narrated by NJMC staff. Tourists should be at least 10 years old. The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. All donations are applied directly to programs at the Meadowlands Environment Center, a NJMC facility operated by Ramapo College. Trips for educational, civic and other groups are available. Due to high demand, no reservations can be held until payment and registration forms are received.

The following pontoon boat cruises will depart at 5:30 p.m.:

- May 17, 18 and 31
- June 1, 14, 15, 29 and 30.
- July 10,11,12,27 and 28.
- August 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15.

The following cruises will depart at 5 p.m.

- August 30 and 31.
- September 11, 12, 13, 26, 27 and 28.

Saturday morning trips on July 29 and Aug. 12 will depart at 8 a.m.

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## **Canoe Tours**

Canoe tours offer exhilarating views of landscapes and wildlife that cannot be seen from land. Tours launch from Mill Creek Point Park in Secaucus and Sawmill Creek in Lyndhurst. NJMC staff lead the canoe tours. Tourists should be at least 10 years old and have some canoeing experience. Pre-registration is required. Canoes are provided, and the cost is \$15 a person.

Canoe tours are scheduled for the following dates:

- May 20 at 8:30 a.m., launching at Mill Creek,
- June 18 at 10 a.m., launching from Mill Creek and Sawmill Creek,
- July 15 at 8 a.m., launching from Sawmill Creek,
- Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. launching from Mill Creek and Sawmill Creek.

For directions to the marina or canoe launches, a registration form or more information, contact NJMC Outreach Naturalist Gabrielle Bennett-Meany at (201) 460-4640. Registration forms also may be picked up at the NJMC offices at One DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is the zoning and regulatory agency for the 32-square-area along the Hackensack River which covers 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson Counties. Created by an act of State Legislature in 1969, the NJMC is charged with the mandates of environmental protection, economic development and solid waste management. The towns in the Meadowlands District are Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Ridgefield, Rutherford, South Hackensack, Teterboro, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen and Secaucus.

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